

### CHARLES W. LENG

In July, 1894, after my graduation at Columbia, I took a job at eight dollars a week with the firm of John S. Leng's Son & Co. This firm dealt in steel tubing manufactured in Birmingham, England, and in bicycle parts and sundries, with headquarters at 4 Fletcher Street on one of New York City's narrowest thoroughfares. In this business Charles W. Leng was the managing partner. Associated with him as partners were two brothers, their mother (a silent partner), Thomas G. Voorhis (a brother-in-law) and James B. Pratt.

At this time Charles W. was a very active and energetic young man of 34 with red hair and a quick temper which never lasted very long. Those were busy days in the bicycle business and our hours were from 8:30 in the morning until nearly midnight during the busy season, with a few minutes off for an excellent lunch at a small beer saloon conveniently located on the nearest corner, and ample time for dinner at Peck's restaurant on Fulton Street where each one of us drank many cups of coffee. Our very "homey" office was heated in winter from an open stove in which we burned cannel coal. During our quieter seasons dinners and social evenings on Staten Island were frequent at Charles' home or that of his mother, or with Mr. and Mrs. Voorhis, and altogether we were quite a happy family.

From February 1, 1898, until September, 1901, I was one of the junior partners of the firm so that for seven years a very intimate and pleasant business relation existed between Charles and myself in which I served both as employé and partner.

During my college years and for some time afterward, I bought and sold beetles, and in this enterprise Charles was of great assistance both as a generous buyer of whatever was lacking in his collection, and furnishing from his duplicates various specimens for my other customers.

Our entomological relations, however, were by no means entirely of a business character but included many collecting excursions on Staten Island where he and William T. Davis introduced me to all of the best places for aquatic beetles. On one of these

outings we took in one dredge of the net one thousand specimens of *Bidessus flavicollis* (Lec.), which I had never before taken in the field.

Although never a companion of Charles on any of his collecting trips away from home, Mrs. Sherman and I were at least the partial instigators of his visit in September, 1909, to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. One of my treasured letters he wrote with great enthusiasm on September 23, the day after he and Mrs. Leng returned from Randolph, N. H., asking us to "come down with your baby (Elizabeth, then nearing two years) and swap yarns."

All of us who were members of our society during his active years will always remember the regular Election Day gatherings at the Leng home at West New Brighton, and the wonderful minutes of our meetings which he gave us during his long service as secretary. And the coleopterists among us enjoyed greatly the Saturday afternoon sessions at the American Museum, working on the local beetle fauna, under his guidance.

Mr. Leng began his entomological writings very early in life, with his synoptic tables of Cerambycidae in the early Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, of which he was a charter member. Even during the very active years in the bicycle business, his interest in beetles never waned. In 1902 there was published in the Transactions of the American Entomological Society his "Monograph of North American Cicindelidae," and his "Notes on Coccinellidae" in four parts appeared in the JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1903-1911.

About 25 years ago at my request Mr. Leng prepared his "Catalogue of the Coleoptera of America, North of Mexico," which was published in December 1920. This work of nearly 500 pages is much more than a mere catalogue. Our species, more than 18,000 in number, are not only listed, but their distribution is shown, and there is also a page citation of the original description of each species. At the beginning is a comprehensive essay on the various systems used in the classification of the Coleoptera: at the end is a complete bibliography of the literature. A Supplement was published in 1927, and the second and third Supplements, printed under one cover, appeared in 1933. In preparing

these Supplements after Mr. Leng assumed the directorship of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, Andrew J. Mutchler gave valuable assistance, which was gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Leng.

The Leng-Mutchler "Catalogue of the Coleoptera of America, North of Mexico," is Mr. Leng's greatest contribution to entomological science and it is a very great contribution indeed.—

JOHN D. SHERMAN, JR.